

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A telephony system comprising:
a server comprising a receiving mechanism for
5 receiving a telephony destination code representing a
telephony destination address, an assigning mechanism for
assigning an Internet protocol packet destination address
corresponding to said telephony destination address, and
a communications mechanism for packetizing and forwarding
10 payload data to an Internet protocol router.
2. The telephony system according to claim 1,
wherein said mechanism for receiving a telephony
destination code comprises a mechanism for receiving a
15 PSTN destination telephone number.
3. The telephony system according to claim 1,
wherein said mechanism for receiving a telephony
destination code comprises a mechanism for receiving a
20 PBX destination telephone number.
4. A communications management system for
transmitting payload data from an originating standard
dial-out telephony communications equipment, said system
25 comprising:
an Internet server coupled to receive call
initiation requests from said standard dial-out telephony
communications equipment, said Internet server comprising
an IP protocol interface to an Internet host and a
30 mechanism for converting a received telephony destination
code to an IP address.
5. The communications management system according
to claim 4, wherein said payload data comprises voice
35 data, and said standard dial-out telephony communications
equipment comprises an analog telephone.
6. The communications management system according
to claim 4, wherein said payload data comprises voice

data, and said standard dial-out telephony communications equipment comprises a digital telephone.

7. The communications management system according to claim 6, wherein said digital telephone comprises a PBX telephone.

8. The communications management system according to claim 4, wherein said Internet server further comprises a mechanism for determining, from a telephony destination code received by said Internet server from said originating standard dial-out telephony communications equipment, to which of a plurality of other Internet servers said payload data should be forwarded, said Internet server and each of said other Internet servers being interconnected via said Internet.

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